

Delivered-To: alias-xanadu-net-ted@xanadu.net  
Date: Sat, 18 May 2002 23:30:34 -0600 (MDT)  
X-Authentication-Warning: aztec.santafe.edu: rms set sender to rms@aztec  
using -f

From: Richard Stallman <rms@gnu.org>

To: ted@xanadu.net

CC: ted@xanadu.net, marlene@xanadu.net, xanni@xanadu.net,  
echarter@din.or.jp

Subject: Re: PS-- would really appreciate v. brief note

Reply-to: rms@gnu.org

X-ECS-MailScanner: Found to be clean

STALLMAN  
ANTI-INSPIRED/  
BY XANADU!

AND  
GNU STORY!

>Paradoxically, what did help inspire me for free software was the  
>later secretiveness of the Xanadu developers. I found it offensive

For Heaven's sake! You mean that's where you got the idea  
for free software originally?? Or did it simply contribute to  
your resolve?

I already understood the idea of free software, because we practiced  
free software at MIT as a way of life. This contributed to my  
disapproval for non-free software; it helped me move to thinking of  
this as an ethical issue, as a matter of right and wrong.

Would you remember whom? Not I? Roger Gregory?

I think he was one of them, but I don't know if I ever spoke with him  
myself. Eric Drexler was involved too.

One aspect of your inspiration, I thought I'd heard,  
was the inaccessibility of Unix.

No, that is not correct. I never tried to use Unix until I started  
writing GNU. My direct reason for writing a free operating system was  
the problem that all the modern operating systems were proprietary.

But I paid little specific attention to Unix in particular until after I decided to try to solve that problem by writing an operating systems. Then I chose Unix as the design to follow, for technical reasons.